



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TEXAS 75202-2733

APR 13 2006

CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

7004 2890 0001 6530 2234

Ms. Whitney Duplantis
Hilcorp Energy
1201 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002

RE: Clean Water Act, Section 308 Information Request
Oil Spill in Cameron Parish, Louisiana on or about March 13, 2006
NRC Report No: 790757

Dear Ms. Duplantis:

Pursuant to Section 308 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. Section 1318 et seq., the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has the authority to request information pertinent to carrying out its responsibilities under the CWA. Accordingly, this Information Request is hereby served on you and Hilcorp Energy.

Compliance with the provisions of this letter is mandatory. Your responses to the questions are to be submitted to EPA and postmarked within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter. The response must be signed by a duly authorized official of Hilcorp Energy. The information will be considered in the evaluation of the extent of your compliance with the federal regulations governing the discharge, or threat of discharge, of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants into navigable waters of the United States.

Failure to respond fully and truthfully to the Information Request, or to adequately justify such failure to respond, will be considered a violation of Section 309 of the CWA, as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987, which can result in enforcement action by EPA. Section 309 of the CWA permits EPA to seek the imposition of civil and criminal penalties for failure to submit information requested under Section 308 of the CWA, including issuance of an Administrative Penalty Order or referral to the United States Department of Justice for judicial action with monetary fines. Please be further advised that providing false, misleading, or fraudulent statements or representations, may subject you to criminal penalties under Section 309 of the CWA.

9689321



This Information Request is not subject to the approval requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, of 1980, as amended, 44 U.S.C. Section 3501, et. seq., as described in 5 CFR Part 1320.3(c).

You are hereby requested to provide the following information regarding the oil spill, which occurred on or about March 13, 2006, in Cameron Parish, Louisiana:

1. A report regarding the spill of crude oil into a water body, which occurred on or about March 13, 2006. (If the name of the water body is not available, use the best description available.)
2. The amount of product spilled (in either barrels or gallons).
3. Duration of the spill event. Report the time and date the spill began, how long the product remained in the watercourse, as well as on the shoreline or banks and when the cleanup operations were considered complete and all product removed from waters of the United States and adjoining shoreline.
4. The cause of the spill.
5. Name of the immediate receiving ditch, creek, stream, river, lake, arroyo, swale, etc. if known.
 - A. Also include the names of all downstream receiving waters that the spill affected.
 - B. Additionally, list all downstream receiving water bodies to the first major river or lake, regardless of whether or not the spill affected the water bodies.
6. Site location map.
7. Drawing of the site showing locations of the facilities.
8. Sketch of the spill site showing extent of the spill.
9. Photographs of the spill and the spill site both before and after cleanup.
10. Documentation of any penalties assessed by local, state or federal agencies.

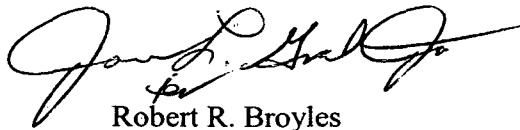
In some instances, information requested by EPA may be considered confidential business information (CBI) by the provider of that information. Should any of the information requested by EPA as part of this request for information be considered CBI material by Hilcorp Energy, you must assert that claim as part of your reply. The final determination regarding this material will be made by EPA per the regulations found in 40 CFR Part 2.204.

Please mail your response to the following address:

Mr. Nelson Smith
Superfund Division (6SF-RC)
U. S. EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

If you have any questions relating to this Information Request, please contact Mr. Nelson Smith at (214) 665-8489.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert R. Broyles", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Robert R. Broyles
Chief, Response & Prevention Branch
Superfund Division

FINDINGS AND ALLEGED CIVIL VIOLATIONS

1. Hilcorp Energy is a firm qualified to do business in the State of Louisiana with a place of business located in Houston, Texas. The Respondent is a person within the meaning of Section 311(a)(7) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §1321(a)(7).

2. Respondent is the owner/operator of an onshore facility within the meaning of Section 311(a)(10) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §1321(a)(10), a crude oil gathering line, which is located Cameron Parish, Cameron Parish, Louisiana (facility).

3. Section 311(b)(3) of the Act prohibits the discharge of oil into or upon the navigable waters of the United States or adjoining shorelines in such quantities that have been determined may be harmful to the public health or welfare or environment of the United States.

4. For purposes of Section 311(b)(3) and (b)(4) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §1321(b)(3) and (b)(4), discharges of oil into or upon the navigable waters of the United States in such quantities that have been determined may be harmful to the public health or welfare or environment of the United States are defined in 40 C.F.R. §110.3 to include discharges of oil that cause a film or a sheen upon or discoloration of the surface of the water or adjoining shorelines.

5. On March 13, 2006, Respondent discharged 10 barrels of oil as defined in Section 311(a)(1) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §1321(a)(1), and 40 C.F.R. §110.1, from its facility into or upon an unnamed wetland area adjacent to Black Lake Bayou and adjoining shorelines.

6. The unnamed wetland area adjacent to Black Lake Bayou enters Black Lake Bayou; thence Black Lake and is a navigable water of the United States as defined in Section 502(7) of the Act, 33 U.S.C. §1362(7), and 40 C.F.R. §110.1.

7. Respondent's March 13, 2006, discharge of oil from its facility caused a sheen upon or discoloration of the surface of the unnamed wetland area adjacent to Black Lake Bayou and adjoining shorelines and therefore, was in a quantity that has been determined may be harmful under 40 C.F.R. §110.3, which implements Sections 311(b)(3) and (b)(4) of the Act.

8. Respondent's March 13, 2006, discharge of oil from its facility into or upon the unnamed wetland area adjacent to Black Lake Bayou and adjoining shorelines in a quantity that has been determined may be harmful under 40 C.F.R. §110.3 violated Section 311(b)(3) of the Act. Pursuant to Section 311(b)(6)(B)(i) of the Act, and 40 CFR 19.4, the Respondent is liable for civil penalties of up to \$11,000 per violation, up to a maximum of \$32,500.

Hilcorp Energy Company

May 5, 2006

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Nelson Smith
Superfund Division (6SF-RO)
U.S. EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Post Office Box 61229
Houston, TX 77208-1229

1201 Louisiana
Suite 1400
Houston, TX 77002

Phone: 713/209-2400
Fax: 713/209-2478



Dear Mr. Smith,

**SUBJECT: CLEAN WATER ACT, SECTION 308 INFORMATION REQUEST- OIL SPILL
IN CAMERON PARISH, LA 03/13/06 – NRC #790757**

Hilcorp Energy Company is writing this letter in response to your request for information on an oil spill that occurred at one of its oil and gas fields in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. The spill occurred in Hilcorp's East Hackberry Oil & Gas Field. The spill was reported to the National Response Center (Report #790757), LA State Police and LA Department of Environmental Quality (incident #06-01537). The requested information follows here.

1. Please find attached for your review a copy of the incident report letter submitted to the LA Department of Environmental Quality and the LA State Police. The body of water affected was a natural marsh pothole located north of Black Lake Bayou and east of the Alkali Ditch. The product was fully contained in the natural pothole.
2. The amount of product spilled was estimated to be approximately ten (10) barrels of crude oil.
3. The spill was discovered at approximately 1:30 PM on March 13, 2006. Hilcorp personnel immediately shut off the source of the spill and deployed both hard and sorbent booms to contain the spill and recover the product. A vacuum trucks were also utilized to recover the product. Clean-up operations lasted ten (10) days.
4. The cause of the spill was determined to be a ruptured oil collection line serving the East Hackberry field.
5. The affected water body was a natural marsh pothole located north of Black Lake Bayou and east of the Alkali Ditch. In addition, Black Lake is located approximately ½ mile west of the spill location. The product was fully contained in the natural pothole.
6. See attached quad map.
7. See attached aerial. The line responsible for this discharge serves the entire East Hackberry field.
8. See attached sketch referenced in request #7.
9. See attached pictures.
10. To date, no penalties have been assessed by any local, state or federal agency.

No significant damage or lasting impacts to the environment was noted as a result of this spill. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Henri deLaunay
Environmental Coordinator
Hilcorp Energy Company

cc: File

Hilcorp Energy Company

March 17, 2006

CERTIFIED MAIL

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 4312
Baton Rouge, La 70821-4312

Post Office Box 61229
Houston, TX 77208-1229

1201 Louisiana
Suite 1400
Houston, TX 77002

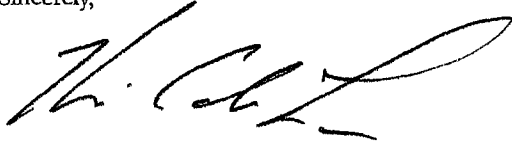
Phone: 713/209-2400
Fax: 713/209-2478

Dear Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality,

SUBJECT: HACKBERRY FIELD FLOWLINE LEAK, CAMERON PARISH, LA

Hilcorp Energy Company is writing this letter as a formal follow up on an oil spill that occurred in its Hackberry Oil and Gas Field in Cameron Parish. On March 13, 2006, at approximately 1:30 p.m., Hilcorp personnel discovered a pipeline rupture on the 4" oil collection line serving the east side of the field. Hilcorp personnel immediately shut off the source of the spill and began clean up operations. American Pollution Control Corporation (Ampol) was contracted to handle clean up operations. Hilcorp initially estimated that 20 barrels of oil had been released. Upon further investigation, Hilcorp has revised that estimate down to 10 barrels. Padding and washing operations were conducted to recover all freestanding oil. The site has now been moved into maintenance. No injuries or harm was noted to humans or wildlife. The LADEQ/State Police were notified and issued incident number 06-01537 at 2:15 p.m. The National Response Center was notified at 3:30 p.m. and issued incident #790757. If you have any questions or need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you for your time and understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,



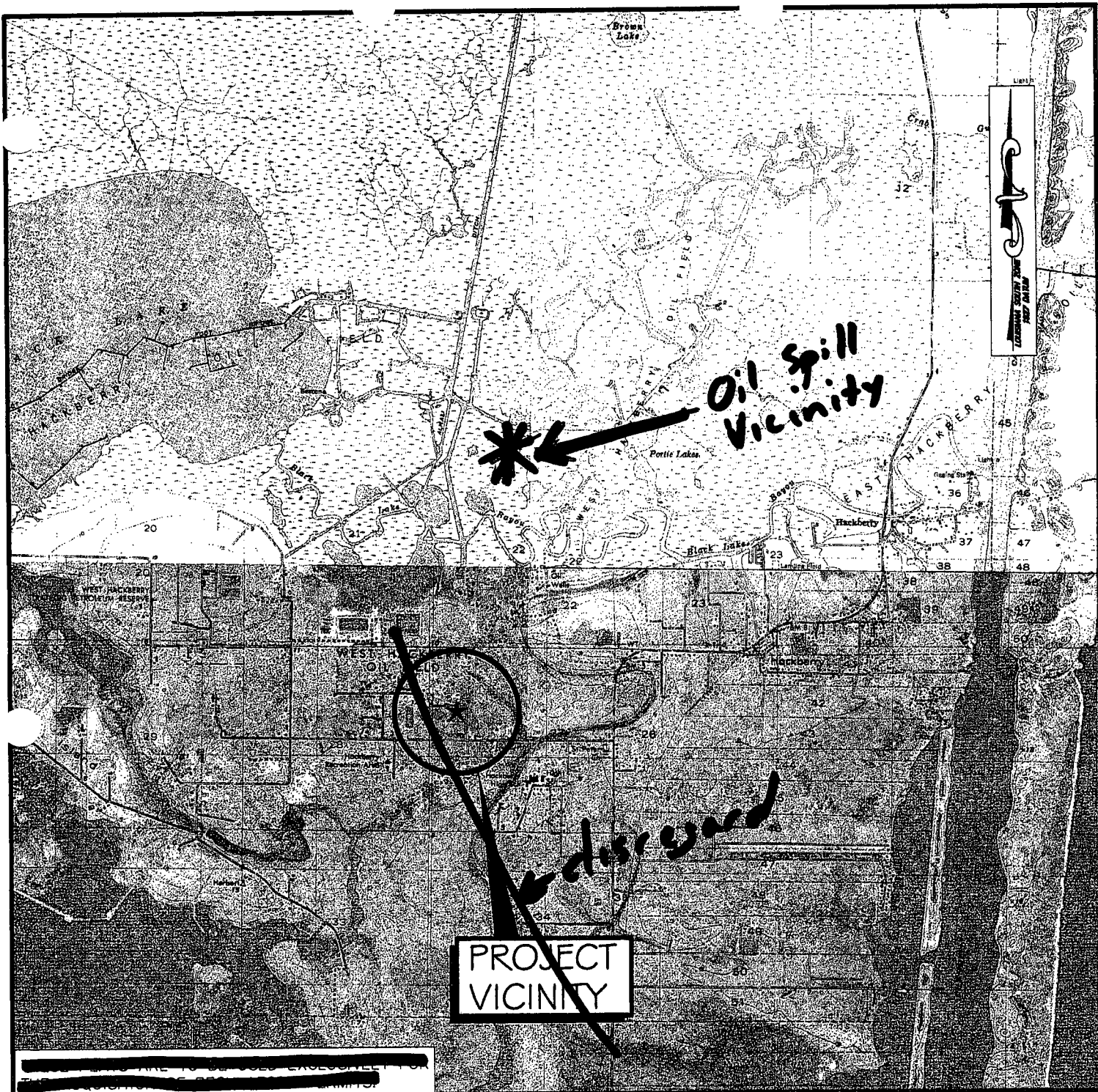
Henri deLaunay
Environmental Coordinator
Hilcorp Energy Company

cc: Louisiana State Police
Right to Know/Emergency Response Commission
Tess Mail Slip #21
P.O. Box 66614
Baton Rouge, LA 70896-6614

Tommy Porter
Fred Monus
Whitney Duplantis
Gene Campbell
Jill Goss



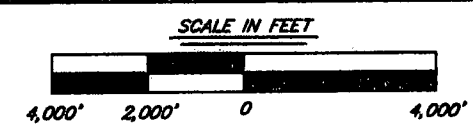




[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

U.T. = 09150'00.7" (nqd83)
 [REDACTED]
 1,051,086.06 (nqd27)
 [REDACTED]

VICINITY MAP
 SCALE: 1" = 4,000'



Hilcorp Energy Company
 Post Office Box 61229
 Houston, TX 77208-1229

[REDACTED]
 SEC. 27, T 12 S - R 10 W
 CAMERON PARISH, LOUISIANA

LAMBERT GRID NORTH
NAD 1927 LA. S.Z.

-Y=497,500

X=1,350,000

SEC. 16

-X=1,350,000

-Y=495,000

HILCORP ENERGY COMPANY
HOUSTON, TEXAS

OIL SPILL CONTAINMENT AREA
WEST HACKBERRY FIELD
CAMERON PARISH, LOUISIANA

600' 0' 600'

SCALE IN FEET

PREPARED
BY:

C&C Technologies
SURVEY SERVICES
730 E. KALISTE SALOOM ROAD, LAFAYETTE, LA (337) 281-0660

JOB NO. 1000 DATE: 03/20/2006

DWG: WPB CHK: WPB REV.:

FILENAME: L:\12S10W\1000\1000A.DWG

T12S-R10W

X=1,352,500

SEC. 15

+ Y=497,500

X=1,355,000

PIPELINE

AREA OF IMPACT

RELEASE SITE
NRC # 790757
LSP # 06-01537
Lat= 30°00'50.9"N
Lon= 93°22'26.2"W

+ Y=495,000

-X=1,352,500

-X=1,355,000











fldr-NRC@comdt.uscg.mil

03/13/2006 03:53 PM

To R6 SpillReports@EPA

cc

bcc

Subject NRC#790757

NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER - FLASH FAX
GOVERNMENT USE ONLYGOVERNMENT USE ONLY***
DO NOT RELEASE this information to the public without
permission from the NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER 1-800-424-8802

Incident Report # 790757

INCIDENT DESCRIPTION

*Report taken by: CIV CREWS at 16:45 on 13-MAR-06
Incident Type: PIPELINE
Incident Cause: EQUIPMENT FAILURE
Affected Area:
The incident occurred on 13-MAR-06 at 13:30 local time.
Affected Medium: WATER

REPORTING PARTY

Name: WHITNEY DUPLANTIS
Organization: HILCORP ENERGY
Address: 1201 LOUISIANA ST.
HOUSTON, TX 77002
HILCORP ENERGY called for the responsible party.
PRIMARY Phone: (337)2777140
Type of Organization: PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

SUSPECTED RESPONSIBLE PARTY

Name: WHITNEY DUPLANTIS
Organization: HILCORP ENERGY
Address: 1201 LOUISIANA ST.
HOUSTON, TX 77002
PRIMARY Phone: (337)2777140
Type of Organization: PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

INCIDENT LOCATION

County: CAMERON
City: HACKBERRY State: LA Zip: 77002
2 MILES WEST OF HWY 27 AJCENT TO KELSO BAYOU

RELEASED MATERIAL(S)

CHRIS Code: OIL Official Material Name: OIL: CRUDE
Also Known As:
Qty Released: 20 BARREL(S)

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT

REPORTING A RELEASE OF MATERIALS INTO A MARSH LAND DUE TO OIL
PIPELINE DUE TO EQUIPMENT FAILURE.

INCIDENT DETAILS

Pipeline Type: FLOW
DOT Regulated: NO

Pipeline Above/Below Ground: ABOVE
Exposed or Under Water: NO
Pipeline Covered: UNKNOWN

DAMAGES

Fire Involved: NO Fire Extinguished: UNKNOWN
INJURIES: Hospitalized: Empl/Crew: Passenger:

FATALITIES: Empl/Crew: Passenger: Occupant:
EVACUATIONS: Who Evacuated: Radius/Area:
Damages:

Closure Type	Description of Closure	Hours Closed	Direction of Closure
Air:	N		
Road:	N		Major N Artery:
Waterway:	N		
Track:	N		

Passengers Transferred: NO
Media Interest: NONE Community Impact due to Material: NO

REMEDIAL ACTIONS

BOOMS APPLIED, ABSORBENTS APPLIED, MATERIAL CONTAINED
Release Secured: YES
Release Rate:
Estimated Release Duration:

WEATHER

Weather: PARTLY CLOUDY, 85°F

ADDITIONAL AGENCIES NOTIFIED

Federal:
State/Local: STATE POLICE
State/Local On Scene:
State Agency Number: 06-01537

NOTIFICATIONS BY NRC

DOT CRISIS MANAGEMENT CENTER (PRIMARY)
13-MAR-06 16:52 (202)3661863
U.S. EPA VI (PRIMARY)
(866)3727745
USCG FIST NEW ORLEANS (SUPERVISOR, FIST NEW ORLEANS)
13-MAR-06 16:52 (504)5894224
FLD INTEL SUPPORT TEAM PORT ARTHUR (FIST COMMAND CENTER)
13-MAR-06 16:52 (409)7195005
LA DEPT OF ENV QUAL (PRIMARY)
13-MAR-06 16:52 (225)2193640
LA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (PRIMARY)
13-MAR-06 16:52 (225)9257500
LA OFFICE OF GOV ATTN ROLAND GUIDRY (PRIMARY)
13-MAR-06 16:52 (225)2195800
LA OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH (PRIMARY)
13-MAR-06 16:52 (504)5688537
MSU LAKE CHARLES (PRIMARY)

13-MAR-06 16:52 (337)4917800
NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COORD CTR (PRIMARY)
13-MAR-06 16:52 (202)2829201
NOAA RPTS FOR LA (PRIMARY)
13-MAR-06 16:52 (206)5266344
LA STATE POLICE (PRIMARY)
13-MAR-06 16:52 (225)9256595
TCEQ (PRIMARY)
13-MAR-06 16:52 (512)2392507

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

THE CALLER HAD NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

*** END INCIDENT REPORT 790757 ***

Report any problems or Fax number changes by calling 1-800-424-8802
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil>

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Ms. Whitney Duplantis
Hilcorp Energy
1201 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002

PS Form 3800, June 2002

See Reverse for Instructions